

PHYSICISTS IGNORE WORLD'S TENSIONS

East and West Scientists
Exchange Data and Views
at Conference Upstate

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—For the last three days the campus of the University of Rochester has appeared to be a patch of sunshine in the somber overcast of the "cold war."

Thursday marked the opening here of the Tenth International Conference on High Energy Physics. The annual gathering of leading physicists is, in effect, a world summit conference in its highly important and complex field of study.

At the scientific sessions and in the free periods between them, Soviet physicists have mingled, exchanged data and scientific ideas with their colleagues from the United States and twenty-eight other nations.

The exchanges have been limited to scientific matters. One Russian-speaking Western physicist said the delegates spoke freely of physics and the weather, but are shy on less neutral topics. The subject matter of the conference is all pure science with no immediate applications to technology. None of the information is classified.

27 in Soviet Delegation

The Soviet delegation, numbering twenty-seven, is understood to be the largest group of Soviet physicists ever to attend a pure science meeting outside their own country.

Here they have not markedly

kept to themselves. One distinguished American physicist said their behavior in that respect has been indistinguishable from

A prominent American physicist described Soviet scientific contributions to the sessions he had attended as "modest."

From other Western scientists there was a range of views on this point depending, apparently, on which of the four simultaneous sessions the observer attended Thursday and yesterday.

Several said the Soviet work seemed no better, but certainly no worse than that of any of the other major delegations.

Learned of Research

One session chairman expressed gratification at learning from the Soviet scientists details of some research projects that physicists elsewhere had not realized the Russians were pursuing.

The absence from the meeting of two particularly important Soviet physicists, Igor Y. Tamm, head of the theoretical laboratory of the Lebedev Physical Institute in Moscow, and A. I. Alikhanov of the Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics there is considered a loss to the international meeting.

The men had been expected to serve as chairmen of two of the scientific sessions here. Two weeks ago, however, the organizing committee of the conference received notice that the two scientists could not attend. No explanation has been given.

Another leading Soviet scientist, Dr. D. I. Blokhintsev, director of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research at Dubna, has been prevented from attending by illness. He also had been expected to be chairman at one of the sessions. Physicists here hope he may still be able to attend later parts of

the meeting, which continues through Thursday.

Though preparations for the conference had been in progress for several months, no list of delegates had been received from the Soviet Union before the U-2 incident. This event and the failure of the summit conference in Paris caused speculation that the Russians might not send any delegation.

Dr. Robert E. Marshak, chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Rochester and organizer of the conference, has expressed gratification that a large delegation did come.

It is led by the distinguished physicists Vladimir Veksler and Nikolai Bogolyubov, both members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Other leading American physicists emphatically shared this feeling.

Following a meeting late last night, officers of the Commission on High Energy Physics of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics said plans were in progress to expand the already respectable amount of basic scientific information exchanged between East and West in the field.

The union is the principal sponsor of the international meeting.

The scientific sessions here are in recess today and tomorrow. Many of the American and foreign physicists are taking tours to points of interest in western New York.

Portugal Notes African Plan

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Aug. 27 (Reuters)—Prof. Paulo Cunha, former Portuguese Foreign Minister, said today he did not expect Portugal's African territories to be affected by African independence moves. He said that Portugal's African territories were provinces, not colonies, and that they had the same status as European Portugal.